



2014-05

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION LEADS EFFORTS TO TREAT TRAFFIC CRASH VICTIMS AS VICTIMS OF CRIME

WHEREAS, in 2012, there were 5,419,000 police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes, and;

WHEREAS, according to the [2012 Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview \(DOT-HS-811-856\)](#), the nation lost 33,561 people in crashes on roadways during 2012, and;

WHEREAS, in 2012, an estimated 2.36 million people were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes according to NHTSA's National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES), and;

WHEREAS, in 2012, 10,322 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, accounting for 31 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, in 2011, 9,944 lives were lost due to speed-related crashes, and;

WHEREAS, in 2012, 3,328 people were killed in distraction-affected crashes and distraction-affected crashes injured 387,000 people in 2011, and;

WHEREAS, more than 900 people a year die and nearly 2,000 are injured as a result of vehicles running red lights. About half of those deaths are pedestrians and occupants of other vehicles who are hit by red light runners, and;

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates about 10 million or more crashes go unreported each year, and;

WHEREAS, according to NHTSA's Fatalities—FARS 2010 (Final), 2011 (ARF), Injured—NASS GES 2010, 2011 Annual Files, pedestrians accounted for 4,432 deaths and 69,000 injuries in 2012, and pedal cyclists accounted for 677 deaths and 48,000 injuries. On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every eight minutes in traffic crashes. (Traffic Safety Facts: Pedestrians, August 2013, Resources, Programs, and Activities), and;

WHEREAS, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) says in 2010 that the cost of medical care and productivity losses associated with motor vehicle crash injuries was over \$99

billion, or nearly \$500 for each licensed driver in the United States. In addition, every 10 seconds an American is treated in an emergency department for crash-related injuries, and;

WHEREAS, in 2012, the average auto liability claim for property damage was \$3,073; the average auto liability claim for bodily injury was \$14,653 (Insurance Research Council's (IRC) 2011 Trends in Auto Injury Claims). The lifetime costs of crash-related deaths and injuries among drivers and passengers were \$70 billion in 2005, and;

WHEREAS, private insurers pay approximately 50% of all motor vehicle crash costs; individual crash victims pay about 26%; charities and health care providers pay about 14%; federal revenues account for 6%; and state and local municipalities pick up about 3%; while third parties such as uninvolved motorists are delayed in traffic. Overall, those not directly involved in crashes pay for nearly three-quarters of all crash costs, primarily through insurance premiums, taxes, and travel delay ([National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#));

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) hereby: (1) encourages the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and others to work closely with the National Sheriffs' Association through NSA's Traffic Safety Committee and Crime Victim Services Committee to create and institutionalize an organized law enforcement response to crash victims as victims of crime and provide law enforcement training, appropriate victim response, resources, and crime victim service follow-up to those victims in an appropriate manner; (2) encourages all interested parties to work with the FBI to add crash victim data to the list of violent crimes on the Unified Crime Reporting (UCR) database and forms; and (3) encourages the creation of a unified voice in law enforcement and crime victim services to provide first responder and follow up services and resources to crash victims as victims of crime.